

## REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1-2, 5-7, 10-12, and 15-25 have been amended. Claims 1-25 are pending.

### Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,581,094 issued to Gao.

Claim 1, as amended, recites the following:

receiving a discovery information query;  
retrieving one or more XML files stored on one or more network devices, each XML file containing discovery information of the network device on which the file is stored; and  
searching the discovery information in the XML files based on the received query.

Claims 5, 10, and 15 recite similar limitations.

Gao discloses a method executed by one or more digital devices that includes storing a network address for each digital device in a set of digital devices. Gao does not disclose retrieving one or more XML files stored on one or more network devices, each XML file containing discovery information of the network device on which the file is stored, and searching the discovery information in the XML files based on the received discovery information query. These features are recited in claims 1, 5, 10, and 15. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1, 5, 10, and 15 are not anticipated by Gao.

Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16-25 are dependent claims and distinguish for at least the same reasons as their independent base claim in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Therefore, Applicants submit that Gao does not anticipate claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16-25 for at least the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants submit that claims 1-25 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: 3/3/04

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